

Croatian Hall (Hrvatska Dvorana)  
Cambria City Neighborhood  
612 Broad Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5753

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Croatian Hall  
(Hrvatska Dvorana)

HABS No. PA-5753

Location: 612 Broad Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: The Croatian Hall houses the St. Rochus Catholic Church Lodge No. 5 of the Croatian Fraternal Union. The building faces southeast in a commercial district. It is a rectangular building, 50' x 99', with a hip roof. The structure is built of brick with a brick and plaster exterior. It is two-and-a-half stories tall. The first floor has been altered. The second features a series of double-hung-sash windows with flat-arched openings, paired in the center.

History: The Croatian Lodge No. 5 was founded on May 13, 1894, as part of an effort to organize Croatian residents of Johnstown and to begin a Croatian Church (See St. Rochus Croatian Catholic Church, HABS No. PA-5762). Beginning with 21 members, the Lodge grew steadily thereafter. There were 86 members in 1897, nearly 1000 in 1980. The first Lodge building was at Seventh Avenue and Bradley Alley in Cambria City. On October 14, 1915, the Lodge purchased the present property from George Brasic for \$10, 500. Construction of the present building was completed in 1920.

Sources:

Deed and Tax Assessment Records, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

"Croatian Lodge Long Active Here," Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, July 25, 1953.

Sanborn Map Company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (New York: The Sanborn Map Company, 1913, 1949).

"Southwestern Pennsylvania Ethnic Records Survey," Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center, Archives of Industrial Society, University of Pittsburgh, 1980.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Jeffrey Hickey in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Hickey's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.